

SOULCIAL KITCHEN

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2026

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, National Apprenticeship Week annually honors the indispensable role of Registered Apprenticeships in cultivating a skilled American workforce, opening doors to high-demand careers, and fortifying the industries upon which our communities and our economy depend; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship is a proven, employer-driven model that pairs rigorous classroom learning with paid, hands-on experience under the guidance of a mentor — equipping individuals with progressive wages, transferable skills, and a portable, nationally recognized credential that travels with them for a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, Soulcial Kitchen was founded on the unshakable conviction that there is no such thing as a throwaway life — that every individual, regardless of background, circumstance, or chapter of their story, possesses inherent dignity and the God-given capacity to contribute, to lead, and to serve; and

WHEREAS, the hospitality and food industry has long been a place of welcome for those seeking a second chance, a first opportunity, or a meaningful path forward, and Soulcial Kitchen has embraced its calling to transform that welcome into structured pathways that honor people's potential and prepare them for sustainable, dignified careers; and

WHEREAS, through industry-recognized apprenticeship programs spanning culinary craft, food truck enterprise, hospitality leadership, and beyond, Soulcial Kitchen has invested in the next generation of skilled professionals — many of whom now stand as mentors and leaders themselves, embodying the Currency of Caring by lifting others as they climb; and

WHEREAS, the recognition Soulcial Kitchen has received on the national stage belongs not to any one individual, but to every apprentice, mentor, partner, and community member whose courage, sweat, and faith have proven that workforce development, done with heart, can transform lives, renew neighborhoods, and reshape entire industries; and

WHEREAS, the work before us is far from finished, and the true multiplier of any meaningful workforce solution is partnership — with employers, educators, public officials, faith communities, and families who refuse to accept that anyone is ever beyond reach;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John E. Michel, Founder & President of Soulcial Kitchen, do hereby recognize National Apprenticeship Week 2026 and call upon our partners, stakeholders, and

friends across the Metro East, the State of Illinois, and the nation to celebrate the apprentices and mentors among us, to champion the continued expansion of Registered Apprenticeship, and to renew our shared commitment to building a workforce — and a future — in which every life is honored, every gift is cultivated, and no one is left behind.

IN SUPPORT,

John E. Michel

Brigadier General, USAF (Ret.)

Founder & President, Soulcial Kitchen

www.soucialkitchen.com

soucialkitchen@gmail.com

719-338-1547